MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Rec'd Nov 23
An — 26

Bendire

Camp Harney, Oregon
Nov 7th 1874.

Doctor George Engelmann

My dear Sir.

I arrived here on the 28th of last month, and have only had time within the last two or three days to look around a little outside of the post. I have no doubt but what this section is full of rare and interesting plants, if I only knew what to pick out, out of the many that may be found here in the proper season. Camp Harney is situated at the south western end of the Blue mountains & borders on a desert country, fully

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as chocolate and barren excepting Artemesia bushes than any of the Arizona plains, but about the vicinity of the post & from there northward the country is better & well wooded. I like this place and am well satisfied, have been at many worse posts than this. The hunting & fishing is excellent but I forget you dont care to know about that. So far I have not seen any oak trees or bushes ever. The neighboring mountains are covered with pines, Junipers & mountain mohagony. The borders of the creeks with willows, scarcely any cottonwoods & these of little size and aspens, also rather diminutive in size. Sage brush covers nearly all the intervening country between this place & the railroad about 260 miles distant by wagon road, but scarcely 180 as the crow flies — The Columbia river is about 240 miles to the north of this and between it & here the country is said to be good and many valleys well adapted to farming. I shall try and make a good collection for you in the Spring, and hope that it may include some rare plants. If it dont it will not be my fault, as I shall try to do the best I can. Today we have had the first snow storm and by appearances we will have more to night. With my best regards to Mrs. Engelmann and to your Son

I remain yours
Very truly
Chs Bendire
Capt 1st Cav

P.S. On the way up from the railroad I saw a number of wild pea vines in full blossom somewhere about the 25th of last month —

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Rec'd Febr 1st

Camp Harney Oregon
Jan 12th 1875.

Doctor George Engelman.
My dear Sir.

I have just packed a small Cigarbox with samples of pine and Juniper for you, and sent it by the same mail this letter goes. I have been waiting for two weeks expecting to go some distance in the mountains where I might find fir and spruce, but the weather is a little too much for me, to venture any distance from the post. Game is getting very scarce and this is another reason why I am not anxious at present to work my way through a couple of feet of snow or more. I thought

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therefore that I would send what I had without waiting any longer. There are undoubtedly more than one species of pine to be found here but to an ignoramus like me in botany all pines look alike. Oaks, if there are any about here I have not seen yet. Cottonwoods are also not, Alders, Aspen and willows are found along the streams and the Aspens grow also on the rocky sidehills and in the mountains where ever the soil appears to be damp and moist. Cactuses of any kind I have not seen yet. Mountain mohogany grows to a good size tree here and is generally found on the edges of the table land or mesas. Juneas I, such like I dont find here at all, it is to cold for them. I find but very few birds here at this season, they have nearly all gone South. With regards to Mrs Englman & yourson I remain

Yours truly Ch Bendire

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Rec July 31
Ans Aug 1

Camp Harney Oregon
July 16th 1875.

Dr. George Engelmann.

Dear Sir.

I have packed a lot of botanical Specimens for you to day & hope that they will reach you in good order. I put them up in the best way I could so that they will incur very little, if any, risk; if they are spoiled, it is not from want of care but from my ignorance in such matters. If they were eggs I would know how to treat them. Of course I can't tell, if any of the Specimens are rare or not but hope that there may be at least a few species amongst them

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which may prove interesting to you.
On receipt of your last letter I sent
you a piece of our Cedar, but I have
not heard from you prither you re-
ceived it or not. I have been doing pretty
well in my own line & obtained some
very rare & interesting Specimens.
Dr Barthof has been sending you
also plants from here & I only hope
that mine are not all duplicates of
his. I shall let my two boys remain
with you another winter, if you will
be so kind as to take care of them.
I do not grant to send for them till
the Regiment is ordered a little
nearer to Civilization which I hope
will occur next Spring. With kindest
regards to Mrs Engelmann and
four Son.

I remain yours truly
H. Lindheimer

The package goes by
same mail.

119.85
14
133.85
45
178.85

Missouri Botanical Garden
George Engelmann Papers

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Rec Aug 27
Ans Sept 7

Camp near Harney Oregon
August 15th 1875.

Doctor George Engelmann

Dear Sir.

I have just received your letter of the 1st instant and am very glad indeed that the botanical specimens reached you, and judging from your letter also pleased you. If there is anything rare amongst them so much the better, I was not very sanguine about that however. You dont say anything about the condition in which the plants reached you. Were the specimens broken up by being packed too tight perhaps? Shut them in a vice to enable it to lie them light.

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to prevent their shaking too much. Did this injure them and break them up, or was my way of putting them up the right one? I dont exactly understand what you mean by the base of the stem. Do you want the roots and all and where the plant is longer than about 9 inches (I dont see how I can press any longer ones) do you want me to cut the stem in two or three sections and send all of it. If you answer me these questions I think I can fully satisfy you another season and more than likely get a few more this year which may come in handy. I dont believe that a reasonable amount of dampness will injure my eggs as long as they dont get wet. If I had as many specimens to send you in your line as I took eggs this season, it would make quite an addition to your cabinet, however I guess I shall do better hereafter. With kindest regards to Mrs Engelmann and Son I remain Yours very truly

Chas Brunner

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Rec Oct 6th
Ans Jan 24

Camp Harney Oregon
Sept 26th 1875.

Doctor Geo Engelmann.

My dear Sir.

I received your favor of the 7th inst by last mail and noted Contents. I see that I have made a mistake again in pressing the last lot of Specimens many of which were longer than the book I press them in so I partly bent them over they are dry now and I shall have to send them as they are. I am going away to morrow for a week but on my return I will make you up another package. I recollect the Shrub you mention very well. It is a Species of Cherry, but not the Choke Cherry, like the

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eastern kind. The tallest bushes probably grow to the height of 8 feet, few however are of that size. It grows in the rockiest kind of places near the tops of the hills where scarcely anything else will grow. The hills about here are all table lands after you get on them and the edges are perpendicular cliffs from 20 to 100 feet high at the base of these cliffs generally is a strip of loose lava rock and below this vegetation commences. It is amongst these rocks & at the lower edges of it where this cherry grows and nowhere else. The frost killed all the blossoms and there is not a single cherry to be found. I have looked for them previously to see what they were like but on my return I will send you some of the roots & you may perhaps succeed in making them grow. I shall pack them in damp moss, and should think that they would keep alive for a couple of weeks or so, particularly as this is about the right time for to dig them.

With kind regards to Mrs Engelmann & yourson
I remain yours very truly Chas Bendire

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Rec Nov 20th
Ans Jan 24

Camp Tarney Oregon
Sept 5th 1875

Doctor George Engelmann.
Dear Sir.

I had been absent for a couple of weeks or else I should have packed your Specimens sooner. I got it to-day and fixed up two packages for you which I hope will reach you in good order. One contains a lot of flowers, plants etc also a small paper of seeds which belongs to the Specimen where it lays. The other package contains roots, wood & small branches of that cherry you wanted. I am sorry I cant send you the seed. They did not have any fruit on them this year. I wrapped on root

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in oil cloth & wet moss. You may be able to start it. It grows on the rocky hill sides near the top. While on my trip through the Blue mountains I looked for oaks but there are none. I brought some cones of a Larch (Larix) back with me but forgot all about packing them up with the balance. I think they call the tree tamerack here. While on the other side of the mountains I saw violets and a species of strawberry wild in bloom & it was snowing when I found them. This was about the 29th of October near the head waters of the John Day river.

Yours truly

C. S. Sudworth

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Rec'd Jan 31st

Camp Harney Oregon
Jan 15th 1876.

Doctor Geo Engelman.
Dear Sir.

I sent you on Nov 5th 75
two packages one containing roots stem
etc of the Species of wild cherry you wanted
to see the other containing specimens of
dried plants etc. The latter was overlooked
in our postoffice and did not go till a
week later. I wrote you a letter at
the time of sending the specimens.
As I have failed to hear from you
since then, I dont know what to make
of it as I think you certainly would
have acknowledged the receipt of the
packages, if you did do to the letter

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never reached me. I have lately had several boxes fail to reach my and want to try and trace it up, if possible. Of course I have not collected anything for sow lately as the snow is too deep to make it do much outside. With kind regards to Mrs Engelmann and Jour Son.

Sincerely Yours Ruby
Chr Reverchon

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Rec'd Feb 19th
Ans May 12

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Camp Harney Oregon
Feb 5th 1876.

Doctor George Engelmann

Dear Sir.

I received your letter of Jan. 23d by Yesterdays mail and this accounts for your long silence, in acknowledging the receipt of the last packages. I wrote you sometime during the middle of the month past, to find out if the specimens had been received or not. I did not misunderstand you at all about breaking the stems of plants that are rather long, instead of bending them in a bow. The specimens in question were all collected before I got that letter,

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and I have not collected anything since
the receipt of it. Hereafter you will
get them properly broken wherever the
stem may require this. I will try and
secure you specimens of Viola Beckwithii
in the spring provided I am still here
then, the chances are that I may be ordered
away at almost any moment and of course
in that case I cant get them, but Dr.
Parish can. They are not by any means
plenty here, I only found a few growing
on the rocky elevated and sage covered
mesas west of the host, I may find them
in other localities also however. The
winter so far has not been unusually
cold, and the fall of snow has been an
average one only, in the valley here it
has been from 18 - 20 inches deep on the
level and on the mountains from 3 to 4 feet.
Neither have we had such cold weather
as we had last winter, the thermometer
indicated — 18° only once, just now
it is quite mild and pleasant. If

You lived about here you could get all the ice you wanted from 16 to 18 inches thick. It just got through yesterday in filling our ice house here. You have asked me in a former letter about oaks, but so far I have not seen any either on this side or on the north side of the mountains near John Day river. I doubt very much if any are to be found about here. While over at John Day valley last fall Oct 31st & Nov 1st I found wild strawberries and blue violets still in blossom at the base of the mountains and that at an altitude of over 5000 feet. I suppose a good botanist could find a number of rare and some new species of plants about here without much trouble and I presume I could too, if I only had some idea of botany. I will keep on sending specimens to you from time to time however if I do not stay here I shall perhaps be in a better place still for you.

Yours truly

C. V. Piper

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for finding at least something new. About the (pinkroken) I know all about now & shall fix the specimens properly hereafter. The last ones sent I had collected already before you wrote me about this. I suppose my eggs are all right yet and none of them have hatched out so far. Please remember me kindly to Mrs Engelmann and your son. I shall probably come through St Louis about the end of the summer and relieve you of the care of the eggs.

Very truly yours
Chr. Hendry

N.B. I have just packed a box for you according to promise. Took the plants up and packed them as carefully as I knew how, some of them at least should stand the journey. There are three kinds in the box. I found another var. a couple of days ago. Will send you pressed ones before long.

C. H.

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Rec'd April 20
Ans May 12

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Camp Harney, Oregon
April 5th 1876.

Doctor George Engelmann.
My dear Sir.

I accidentally stumbled to day on a perfect mass of Viola Beckwithii & I am pretty sure they are the right ones that you wish, and you shall have enough of them this time. I had no idea that they were found so early in the season, but they are amongst the first flowers found here, Buttercups and one or two others. I am only sorry that I did not find them a day sooner, then I would have sent you some carefully packed in wet cotton for planting. At any rate I hope to find a few plants not so very far advanced

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lot, but what they can be taken up and kept on growing. I shall try it anyhow. This can't go before the 11th & I shall send a box at the same time. The pressed specimens I shall send later. I am very glad of the chance to be able to send you something rare & desirable with so little trouble to myself and know how I feel when someone sends me a rare egg that I did not expect to get. I have found two kinds one of them perhaps a new variety. The leaves in general appearance are the same but the flower is not. The flowers are composed out of five different pieces (now don't laugh at my botanical ?? expressions) I don't profess to know anything about it. The two upper ones are a dark purple & the three lower ones white, in the other kind they are all uniformly colored. I only found three plants of this variegated specimen one of which only had flowers fully opened. I left the other two and marked the place, and shall dig one or both up with the roots & send them to you with some of the other kind also. These flowers are quite fragrant and very pretty indeed, but the leaves are so entirely different from those of ordinary violets. I only hope that they will reach you in good order. Now for a description of the locality where I found them. They grow on a rocky side hill facing towards the south a warm sheltered spot and just now rather moist. I found them in masses generally growing out next to a partially covered boulder with smaller pieces of rock mixed around them. No other kinds of violets are out yet but these are the first. You shall have enough to supply a dozen herbariums & have plenty then to spare for your own. I shall be very liberal with the supply. have a lot pressing now and shall keep on getting others every three or four days. If the one is a new kind so much the better for you and I suppose you will give me full credit

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Rec'd September Left 6th
Ans Dec 18th

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Camp Harney Oregon
Augst 12th 1876.

Dr. George Engelman.

Dear Sir.

I found your letter of July 18th awaiting my return from Fort Boise Idaho and am very much pleased to learn that the plants were after all of some use notwithstanding the freezing I gave them. I cant for the world of me recollect what the plant you suppose to be new looks like or else I should have hunted for it ere this. Everything however is completly dried up already to the seed pots opened. I looked for seed of the Violas but was too late

I have been away the greater portion of the Summer from the post and shall start again on the 16th on another month scout. I have recently been over the country to the eastward to Fort Boise Idaho about 200 miles from here, but nowhere on the route have I seen any sign of any oaks whatever. I am almost certain now that none are to be found in this vicinity as I took particular pains to look for them knowing your interested how are respecting them. The small piece of plant you said by I have tried to find but so far not succeeded although I was out only one day it. I am very busy just now trying to catch up with my correspondence & so I start again, I am very much obliged for your taking the trouble to have my eggs stored into the garret. No amount of heat can possibly injure them excepting of course fire, which is not likely. I may come east yet this fall, if not I will certainly come sometime next year. I am afraid that the cherries of which I sent you roots this spring will not ripen, the fruit is still green & we are having heavy frosts already. If I find any ripe I will send some on to you. Did that root grow & how is it about the violas. They have all died down but I could dig out a few roots in the fall which would be sure to grow if you wish it. With kind regards to Mrs Engelmann & yours I am I remain

Yours truly
Chas Bendire

Rec'd Oct 26
Ans Dec 11

Camp Harney Oregon
Sept. 11th 1876.

Dr. Geo Engelmann.

My dear Sir.

I sent you by this mail a
box containing fresh fruit of the
wild cherry of which I sent you
specimens this spring. Also fruit
of another shrub growing about
here. I packed them carefully and
hope that they will reach you in a
tolerable fresh condition. With
kind regards for Mrs Engelmann &
your Son I remain yours truly

Chs. Bendire

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Rec Jan 15

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Camp Harney Oregon
Dec 31st 1876

Doctor George Engelmann

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 11th inst came to hand by last mail, and having learned through your son of your absence east of course I could not reasonably expect to hear from you, and therefore I dont consider you an ungrateful correspondent by any means. I am glad that the wild cherry specimens were well preserved, I did not expect they would be, after laying so long awaiting your arrival. Is there any difference between this & eastern specimens.

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The larger kind I have sent before but not the smaller species. I think I know now what plant you have reference to (the flowers yellowish inside) which you thought might be new. I am sorry it is not as I should like very much to get you a few new specimens. I know that there must be more than one to be found yet about here but unfortunately I do not know enough about botany to even have the remotest idea about what may be rare or otherwise. Well one thing is certain, I can get you plenty more fine specimens of Violets in the Spring. I looked for signs of them this fall to get a few of their roots, but could not see the slightest sign of one and after digging in three different places for them more I supposed they would be found plentyfully, & not finding any thing I gave it up. I hope that I sent you will grow in the spring they want lots of moisture I think & do well. The ground where they grow rocky hillsides exposed to the South is very soft when they are at their best, so I left that you will take in two inches at more each step you take. We are having a remarkably mild winter scarcely any snow as yet, and no really cold weather, but there is plenty of time yet for both. With kind regards to Mrs Engelmann and Louis Sen and numerous happy New Years to you

I remain Yours truly

Chas Reinke

Rec April 28th
Ans May 29

Camp Harney Oregon
April 12th 1877

Dr. George Engelmann. Dear Sir.

I have again collected a lot of Specimens of Vida Breckenridgi I believe you call them, and on looking at them just now I find that they dried very nicely and retained their color perfectly. As there are quite a lot of them and they are all for you I thought of letting you know about it, as you might want to part with some of your specimens you got from me previously. I have also a Skull for your son presumably that of an Indian but I would not swear to it, if it will do him any good then he is perfectly welcome to it. The winter here has been very mild scarcely any snow to so far we have had also but very little rain which will not help much to get nice and fully developed botanical Specimens, but such as I can get I shall prepare for you. With kind regards to Mrs Engelmann and your son

I remain Yours very truly
C. V. Piper

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Rec'd March 6th
Ans. Febr 29 1878

Camp Harney Oregon
Febr. 21st 1878.

Doctor George Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 28th ult has been received — With Respect I observed the lecture you gave me, for not writing to you when I left on last Summers Campaign. I know that I should have done so but with the short notice I had etc I forgot to do it, but I never expected Dr. Brewer would write to you about my eggs left with you. Well if I should have to go again in the Spring I will certainly let you know it. At present it is my full intention to go east on leave in the latter part of June or commencement of July provided nothing turns up in the

mean time. My 1st Lieut Mr Jacox
is on leave now at his home in Illinois
and should be back here on June 5th next.
As soon as he returns I shall make
application to be gone six months. In
the mean time it is more than probable
that my company will take station at
some other point in this department
where I will have a new field to in-
vestigate in. Now can I not collect
a few more specimens for you here such
as the Yucca's about the only name I re-
collect, or have you enough of them for
all purposes. You know the names are
of no use to me a small sample of that
you might want that is found here would
possibly help or some-extent to give me
an idea of the most desirable plants.
During the whole of last summer I
am satisfied that I have nothing
in the Cactus line, but a good many other
trees & shrubs entirely new to me.

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As I said in my last, the country I passed over would have been exceeding ly interesting to a botanist & am certain and a good deal of it would have unquestionably been an entire unexplored field in this respect particularly North eastern and eastern Idaho Terr. I have had my quarters burnt down for a change on the 7th of this month and came nearly losing that part of my collection which I have here with me. Lost considerable by breakage, but on the whole got off a good deal better than I first expected. If my eggs had not been as well packed as they were I would have lost more than I did. I did not bring a single thing along in the way of specimens of any shape, so I am sorry I can't send your son anything at present. You know yourself from the papers that Genl Howard did not hurt the Nez Perces very much and the only time I saw any any way close was while my company was detached from Howards command & with Genl Sturgis

in the light of the Yellowstone river or rather Canyon Creek M.T. He killed about a dozen the first day & I saw some more dead ones on the 2d day which the Crow Indians had killed but preparing skulls under such circumstances is out of question. On such long trips it is not the thing to load horses down with specimens. / Officers Ord, the men subject to do the same thing, and that cant be permitted under any circumstances. I will bear George in mind however & may be can get something for him this year.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs Engelmann and your son. We have had one of the most extraordinary winters till about two weeks ago, but since then it has snowed and stormed almost continously. To day it is clear for the first time in two weeks. The mountains have a great deal of snow on them now & there will be plenty of water now for all purposes & the flora will be tempted out early

Yours very truly

Chr Pickard

Rec March 26
Ans — 27

Fort Halla Halla W. T.
March 14th 1879.

Doctor Geo Engelmann.

Dear Sir

I received your Kind favor of the 19th ult. by last nights mail forwarded from Camp Harney. I can assure you that I deeply sympathize with you in your great loss, and can readily understand how severely it must have affected you. I was in hopes of seing you and family as well and hearty some time this year, as when I left St Louis in 74, but a few years make great changes in all of us. I am commencing to get old myself, and am sick and tired of army life. It seems as if we were never to have any place and the work instead of diminishing increases from year to year.

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There is every prospect for another Indian war out here this Spring and probably a more serious one than the two former ones. I fully expected to go east last fall on my arrival here, but as usual just about that time I was without a Lieutenant in the company. One was ordered on recruiting service the other did not return to the company till late in December so by that time not less than seven of our Captains had been granted leave of absence so that there was little use in my applying then, I would only have been refused. Now in as much as it is almost certain that we will have to take the field again in a few weeks, it would not do either to ask, the chances are I would get a refusal anyhow so furthermore it would not look well, so I shall have to wait a while longer. I shall perhaps manage it late in the summer, if nothing turns up in the mean time. I have found out now where there are oaks to be found east of the

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Cascade range, and that is in the vicinity of old Fort Simcoe the present Indian reservation for the Yakimas and allied tribes. It is in that vicinity where we will have trouble if we have any and I shall not forget you. I can assert with considerable confidence that no oaks grow between Camp Harney & Walla Walla as far east ward as the Rocky mountains. Last summer I passed over quite an extensive section of country again and over scarcely any part of which I had ben over previously without seing a sign of an oak tree. I camped within sight of the main Continental divide and followed up Salmon river to its soureces in the Sawtooth range. This is the roughest country I ever was in, but very picturesque, and I am glad I have seen it, however one is enough. My present station is in a quite civilized section for this country, adjoining the town which has a standing population of some 2500 inhabitants, and is quite an agricultural

center. I cant say that I like it, although
I must say, that Walla Walla valley is
as good, as the majority of our stations.
I have not as good health here as I could
wish to prefer the mountain air, even if the
post there are more idolata than this one.
There is a good deal of malaria here, no
doubt caused to a great extent by the large
amount of newly plowed land. I shall
not be sorry when I leave it. I am doing
scarcely anything in the collecting line
and have little chance here if I wanted
to do so. I hope that by the time this
reaches you, you will have regained your
health fully and your son also, pleasure re-
member me to him kindly.

Very sincerely Yours
Chs Bendire

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Rec Apr 22d
Ans — 23d

Fort Walla Walla W.T.
April 7th 1879

Doctor George Engelmann.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 27th ult was received this evening and as I am about to leave in a day or two for Fort Vancouver W.T. and shall be gone perhaps till the end of May, answer at once. My trip to Vancouver is not on very pleasant business. I am ordered there a Court Martial to be held on charges preferred by a former officer of the regiment for remarks made about him a year and a half ago while on the Nez Perce Campaign. I cant apologize for what I said with honor to myself and shall take the chances of trial, with the hope of coming out all right. This is the opinion of all my brother officers here, and I know that I said nothing about the man, that I cant prove, if some of my witnesses dont fail me, and I dont think they will.

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Walla Walla is 30 miles from the Columbia
South of it. The nearest timbered mountains
are from 20-25 miles distant. All the
surrounding country is well cultivated
principally wheat. How the flora will
turn out here I cant know.
Oaks grow on the north side of the Columbia
about 120 miles from here, what they are
like I cant tell yet, will try and get you
some when I get back. They do not come
down to the river, unless it is near the Dalles
where I heard that there were some to be
found. The pines are I suspect the same
species as found at Fanny. As yet I
know there are at least two kinds if not
more th. Lamarack is also found. Shall
try to get you specimens as soon as I
return here and in the mean time
hope that both you and your son will
keep mending to get fully restored
in health.

Yours very truly
C. C. Pringle

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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